

Remarks

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of Claim 47. Claim 47 has been cancelled. Independent claims 33, 34, 36, 37, 43 and 44 have been amended to include corresponding features to amended Claim 1.

35 USC § 103

Claim 1 recites, in particular:

“A method of operating an ingress entity of a packet-based network comprising...
controlling the step of removing TFO information from the stream of voice data to
ensure that the TFO information does not leak through to voice data,
wherein controlling the step of removing TFO information from the stream
of voice data to ensure that the TFO information does not leak through to voice data
comprises the step of squelching TFO information in the stream of voice data”
(emphasis added)

This corresponds to Claim 47 in the previously amended set of claims.

The Examiner rejected the subject matter of amended Claim 1 as being obvious over Dropmann et al in view of Koistinen. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner in the section entitled “Response to Arguments” indicates that he has reviewed the Applicant’s specification for the definition of squelching and none was provided. The Examiner then goes on to equate squelching to removing bits from the voice data

Applicants disagree with this interpretation of the word squelching. Squelching is a common technical term with a well understood meaning. Applicants submit that one skilled in the art would understand the term squelch to be a function that suppresses any audio content in those

bits. For example, see the attached reference, or the Manual of Regulations and Procedures for Federal Radio Frequency Management (<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/osmhome/redbook/redbook.html>).

Thus, the skilled person would understand, from the application as filed, not merely to remove the bits but to squelch them, for example using a squelching circuit or any processor set up to perform the squelching function.

Thus, as discussed previously Dropmann'934 only discloses that "the conversion device effects the conversion of the inband TFO signalling...into an interworking with a CC signalling and/or an interworking with an IU-UP protocol" paragraph 10 and Koistinen'114 only discloses that "from the information flow consisting of TFO TRAU frames, the TRAU frames are extracted" (see Figure 4 and related description).

Applicants therefore submit that all that is disclosed to one skilled in the art by either Koistinen'114 or Dropman'934 is the extraction of TFO bits and hence, Claim 1 is not obvious to one skilled in the art over Dropman'934 in view of Koistinen'114 .

Applicants further submit that Claims 33, 34, 36, 37, 43 and 44 are patentable over Dropman'934 in view of Koistinen'114 at least for the same reasons as given with reference to Claim 1.

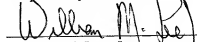
Applicants finally submit that Claims 2 to 9, 11 to 17, 21, 22, 24 to 32 and 46 are patentable over Dropman'934 in view of Koistinen'114 at least by virtue of their dependencies.

It is therefore submitted that the application, as amended, distinguishes from the prior art and is allowable thereover. The Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration is therefore urged.

As this response, which is being filed as part of a Request for Continued Examination, is being filed during the sixth month following the Examiner's Office Action, an appropriate Petition for Extension of Time is also submitted herewith.

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Respectfully submitted,



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